

CLAIMS

1. A method of instant messaging comprising:
- accepting a correction to a previously sent message;
- 5 determining whether a message correction of the previously sent message requires sending one of a complete corrected message and a message correction specification; and
- based on the determination of message correction of the previously sent message, sending to a messaging server one of a complete corrected message and
- 10 a message correction specification.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether at least one factor of the following corresponds to a system:
- allowing message correction by message correction specification;
- 15 implementing message processing services at a messaging server; and
- transmitting binary formats.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the message correction specification comprises at least one text replacement specification.

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4. The method of claim 3, wherein the text replacement specification comprises:

a start character index;

an end character index; and

5 insertion text.

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5. A method comprising:

receiving a message correction specification and a message identifier (ID)
from an originating client system; and

5 sending the message correction specification and the message ID to a client
system if a message with a corresponding message ID has previously been sent to
a recipient client system.

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6. A method comprising:

receiving a message correction specification and a message identifier (ID)
from an originating client system;

correcting a message with a corresponding message ID if a message with a
5 corresponding message ID has not previously been sent to a recipient client system;
and

10 sending the corrected message and the message ID to a recipient client
system.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the message correction specification
comprises at least one text replacement specification.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the text replacement specification
comprises:

15 a start character index;

an end character index; and

insertion text.

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9. A method comprising:
- maintaining an ephemeral storage log of an instant messaging conversation;
 - receiving a message correction specification and a message identifier (ID) from an originating client system;
 - 5 determining if a message processing service is required;
 - correcting a message with a corresponding message ID in the ephemeral storage log if a message processing service is required; and
 - 10 sending the corrected message and the message ID to a recipient client system.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the determining step comprises determining whether at least one factor of the following corresponds to a system:
- language translation;
 - correction of binary format information in a message;
 - 15 correction of image information in a message;
 - system processing efficiency; and
 - network communication efficiency.

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11. A method comprising:

receiving a message correction specification and a message identifier (ID)
from a messaging server;

retrieving a message with a corresponding message ID from a conversation
log;

correcting the message;

updating the conversation log; and

activating an alert to notify a user of an update.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the alert comprises at least one of:
displaying highlighted corrected text in a conversation log and an auditory alert.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the message correction specification
comprises at least one text replacement specification.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the text replacement specification
comprises:

a start character index;

an end character index; and

insertion text.

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15. An apparatus comprising:

an instant messaging client, for sending and receiving messages and message correction specifications; and

an error corrector, communicatively coupled to the instant messaging client, for accepting a correction to a previously sent message, determining whether a message correction of the previously sent message requires sending one of a complete corrected message and a message correction specification, and based on the determination of message correction of the previously sent message, sending to a messaging server one of a complete corrected message and a message correction specification.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the message correction specification comprises at least one text replacement specification.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the text replacement specification comprises:

a start character index;

an end character index; and

insertion text.

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18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the error corrector is further for:
receiving a message correction specification and a message identifier (ID)
from a messaging server;

retrieving a message with a corresponding message ID from a conversation
log;

correcting the message;

updating the conversation log; and

activating an alert to notify a user of an update.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the message correction specification
comprises at least one text replacement specification.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the text replacement specification
comprises:

a start character index;

an end character index; and

insertion text.

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21. An apparatus comprising:

an instant message manager for routing messages and message correction specifications to a recipient system; and

an error corrector, communicatively coupled to the instant message manager, for receiving a message correction specification and a message identifier (ID) from an originating client system, correcting a message with a corresponding message ID if a message with a corresponding message ID has not previously been sent to a recipient client system, and sending the corrected message and the message ID to a recipient client system.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the message correction specification comprises at least one text replacement specification.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the text replacement specification comprises:

a start character index;

an end character index; and

insertion text.

24. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising

an ephemeral storage system for temporarily maintaining a log of an instant message conversation.

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25. A system comprising:

at least one originating client system, for accepting a correction to a previously sent message, determining whether a message correction of the previously sent message requires sending one of a complete corrected message and a message correction specification, and based on the determination of message correction of the previously sent message, sending to a messaging server one of a complete corrected message and a message correction specification;

a messaging server, communicatively coupled to the at least one originating client system, for receiving a message correction specification and a message identifier (ID) from the at least one originating client system, correcting a message with a corresponding message ID if a message with a corresponding message ID has not previously been sent to a recipient client system, and sending the corrected message and the message ID to the recipient client system; and

at least one recipient client system, communicatively coupled to the messaging server, for receiving a message correction specification and a message identifier (ID) from the messaging server, retrieving a message with a corresponding message ID from a conversation log, correcting the message, updating the conversation log, and activating an alert to notify a user of an update.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the message correction specification comprises at least one text replacement specification.

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27. The system of claim 26, wherein the text replacement specification comprises:

a start character index;

an end character index; and

insertion text.

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28. A computer readable medium comprising computer instructions for:

accepting a correction to a previously sent message;

determining whether a message correction of the previously sent message requires sending one of a complete corrected message and a message correction specification; and

based on the determination of message correction of the previously sent message, sending to a messaging server one of a complete corrected message and a message correction specification.

29. The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the determining comprises determining whether at least one factor of the following corresponds to a system:

allowing message correction by message correction specification;

implementing message processing services at a messaging server; and

transmitting binary formats.

30. The computer readable medium of claim 29, wherein the message correction specification comprises at least one text replacement specification.

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31. The computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein the text replacement specification comprises:

a start character index;

an end character index; and

insertion text.

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32. A computer readable medium comprising computer instructions for:
- receiving a message correction specification and a message identifier (ID) from an originating client system; and
 - 5 sending the message correction specification and the message ID to a client system if a message with a corresponding message ID has previously been sent to a recipient client system.

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33. A computer readable medium comprising computer instructions for:
receiving a message correction specification and a message identifier (ID)
from an originating client system;

correcting a message with a corresponding message ID if a message with a
5 corresponding message ID has not previously been sent to a recipient client system;
and

sending the corrected message and the message ID to a recipient client
system.

10 34. The computer readable medium of claim 33, wherein the message correction
specification comprises at least one text replacement specification.

35. The computer readable medium of claim 34, wherein the text replacement
specification comprises:

15 a start character index;
an end character index; and
insertion text.

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36. A computer readable medium comprising computer instructions for:
maintaining an ephemeral storage log of an instant messaging conversation;
receiving a message correction specification and a message identifier (ID)
from an originating client system;

5 determining if a message processing service is required;
correcting a message with a corresponding message ID in the ephemeral
storage log if a message processing service is required; and
10 sending the corrected message and the message ID to a recipient client
system.

37. The computer readable medium of claim 36, wherein the determining step
comprises determining whether at least one factor of the following corresponds to a
system:

language translation;
15 correction of binary format information in a message;
correction of image information in a message;
system processing efficiency; and
network communication efficiency.

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38. A computer readable medium comprising computer instructions for:

- receiving a message correction specification and a message identifier (ID) from a messaging server;
- retrieving a message with a corresponding message ID from a conversation log;
- correcting the message;
- updating the conversation log; and
- activating an alert to notify a user of an update.

39. The computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein the alert comprises at least one of: displaying highlighted corrected text in a conversation log and an auditory alert.